



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/514,598	02/28/2000	Sadeg M. Faris	105-081USA000	8586
26665	7590	06/24/2004	EXAMINER	
REVEO, INC. 85 EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD ELMSFORD, NY 10523			BORISSOV, IGOR N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3629	

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/514,598

Applicant(s)

FARIS ET AL.

Examiner

Igor Borissov

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 175-185 and 191 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 175-185 and 191 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

**Claims 179-185 and 191 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schneier et al. (US 5,970,143).**

Schneier et al. teach a method and apparatus for encoding a message corresponding to an outcome of a computer game, comprising:

**As per claim 179,**

- (a) registering each user as a contestant using a web browser (C. 8, L. 9-11; C. 23, L. 36-60);
- (b) creating a globally-synchronized networked client machine through which the contestant participates in time-constrained question and answer contest (Fig. 20; C. 54, L. 44-45; C. 56, L. 30-33); said client machine including a global synchronization unit (C. 21, L. 46-59);
- (c) using the contest client software on the client machine to log on to the game server (C. 23, L. 36-60);
- (d) transmitting the query and start-time from the primary server to the client machine (C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 23; C. 39, L. 38-53);
- (e) characterizing the client machine's local clock with the master clock on the primary server (C. 39, L. 52-65);

(f) presenting the query to the contestant precisely at the start-time, as determined by a local clock that is characterized with respect to a global master clock located on the primary server (C. 33, L. 12-23);

(g) accepting the contestants response, attaching a time-space-stamp to that response, and transmitting the response and time-space-stamp to the servers (C. 39, L. 65-67; C. 21, L. 47-62);

(h) judging the responses from all the contestants and determining the winner (C. 75, L. 30-32).

**As per claim 180**, said method, comprising the step of determining each contestant's standing or rank for the contest (C. 30, L. 63-65).

**As per claim 181**, said method, wherein step (a) comprises browsing a contest WWW site containing information about the contest, including advertising and ranks of other contestants (C. 11, L. 9-19; C. 33, L. 7-28).

**As per claim 182**, said method, wherein accessing said website over the Internet inherently indicates obtaining HTML or XML encoded documents (C. 11, L. 64-67).

**As per claim 183**, said method, comprising on-line registration of the players (C. 23, L. 36-60).

**As per claim 184**, said method, comprising performing a test (C. 44, L. 47-55).

**As per claim 185**, said method, wherein step (a) comprises:

- creating a record in the contestant database for the user upon completion receipt of the registration information (C. 23, L. 36-60);
- storing the registration information in the record (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10);
- establishing the user as a contestant (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10);
- assigning a contestant ID to the new contestant (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10);
- recording the contestant ID in the contestant database (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10);

- assigning the contestant a username and a temporary password (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10);
- sending an e-mail message containing the username and temporary password (C. 11, L. 56-58; C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10);
- logging said contestant onto secure area of the contest website using his username and temporary password (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10);
- downloading and installing the contest software from the web server to the client machine thereby enabling the client machine for participation in a competition (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20 – C. 31, L. 10).

**As per claim 191**, said method, comprising:

- (a) human operators entering the questions and associated answers (C. 23, L. 36-60; C. 30, L. 20-48);
- (b) before the contest begins, the game server sending its public encryption key to the primary server (C. 10, L. 10 – C. 12, L. 18);
- (c) primary server sending its public encryption key to the game server (C. 10, L. 10 – C. 12, L. 18);
- (d) accessing the system through the contest management interface and selecting the queries (C. 10, L. 10 – C. 12, L. 18);
- (e) assigning a desired start-time for each query (C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);
- (f) the primary server generating a unique set of query encryption and decryption keys for each query and start-time (C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);
- (g) the primary server encrypting the query (column 14, line 64 through column 23, line 60);
- (h) the primary server creating a message containing the encrypted query and decryption key (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);
- (i) encrypting the message using the game server's public encryption key (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);
- (j) sending the message from the primary server to the game server (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);

(k) the game server decrypting the message and creating and encrypting a new message using the client machine's public key (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);

(l) sending the resulting message to the client machine (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);

(m) the client machine decrypting the message (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);

(n) the client machine creating and appending data to a security verification log file (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29);

said security verification log including data of location of said client machine from a global synchronization unit including time-space-stamp information (C. 21, L. 46-59);

(o) the security verification log recording the arrival-time of the encrypted query (C. 14, L. 64 – C. 23, L. 60; C. 32, L. 65 – C. 33, L. 29).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 175-178 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. (US 6,151,643) in view of Schneier et al. (US 5,970,143).**

Cheng et al. teach to a method and system for providing information for software residing on a client computer, comprising:

**As per claims 175-177,**

(a) using a client machine to initially connect to the contest-promoting system (column 7, lines 5-14);

(b) using login server to choose which game server should be utilized (column 7, line 46 through column 8, line 31; column 23, lines 1-17);

(c) using load balancing algorithms to distribute the connections to the game servers (column 16, lines 26-36);

(d) using a first subsystem for transmitting an ITR to each of the game client (column 7, lines 5-39);

(e) using a second subsystem for responding for each ITR presented (column 7, lines 5-39);

wherein the plurality of the game clients are simultaneously presented with the same set of data (column 9, lines 59-63).

However, Cheng et al. do not specifically teach that game clients' response is time-space stamped, and that said client machine includes a global synchronization unit.

Schneier et al. teach a method and system for encoding a message corresponding to an outcome of a computer game, wherein game clients' responses are time-space stamped (column 12, line 57 – column 13, line 5), and wherein a game computer includes Global Positioning System unit (column 21, lines 46-59).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cheng et al. to include that game clients' response is time stamped, as disclosed in Schneier et al., because it would allow certifying times to completion for races of skill played on game computers which start at designated times, either in connection with a given tournament or independent thereof, as specifically stated in Schneier et al. (column 5, lines 25-34).

**As per claim 178**, Cheng et al. teach said method and system wherein the login server accesses the contestant database to check passwords and the status of the contestant (column 7, lines 12-45).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 3/31/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that Schneier et al. fail to disclose the "global synchronization unit" in the client machine, examiner points out that Schneier et al. specifically teach this feature (See: column 21, lines 46-51).

In response to applicant's argument that Schneier et al. fail to teach use of the "global synchronization unit" for security purposes, examiner points out that Schneier et al. do show this feature (See: FIGS. 4A; 6A; column 21, lines 46-59).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see form PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Igor Borissov at telephone number (703) 305-4649.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 872-9306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached at (703) 308- 2702.

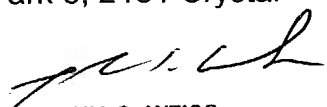
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

***Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks***  
***Washington D.C. 20231***

or faxed to:

**(703) 872-9306** [Official communications; including After Final  
communications labeled "Box AF"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.

  
**JOHN G. WEISS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**